



111 SE 3rd St., Suite 405, Evansville, IN 47708 – www.youthfirstinc.org

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

To the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction:

As the President & CEO of Youth First, I am writing this letter of commitment to demonstrate our agency's support of the Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare (SWBH) 2023 application to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Demonstration Site.

Through this work, SWBH plans to develop the full menu of CCBHC services in our community. The services include comprehensive community-based mental and substance use disorder services; treatment of co-occurring disorders; advancing the integration of behavioral health with physical health care; ensuring equitable access to care and reduction of healthcare disparities; consistently utilizing evidence-based practices; ensuring access to care across the lifespan; providing comprehensive care coordination; and promoting improved access to high-quality care.

We believe this program is critical to the wellbeing of Southwestern Indiana and surrounding communities, because this comprehensive, integrated model offers the care our youth and families need.

Youth First was founded by Dr. William Wooten in 1998 with a mission to strengthen youth and families by providing evidence-based programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. Youth First embeds specially trained social workers and evidence-based prevention programs in schools to strengthen relationships, readiness, and resiliency in young people and their families.

Youth First is committed to building upon our 25 year partnership with SWBH, including referring students and families in need of mental health and/or substance use disorder treatment to the comprehensive care provided by the CCBHC. Other aspects of our partnership include data sharing, screening, and case collaboration.

We appreciate this opportunity to collaborate with SWBH in this service transformation, and we highly recommend them for receipt of this funding. SWBH is a key member of our continuum, and enhancement of their services will be an integral part of continuing to promote equitable access to high-quality care across the region.

Should you have any questions about this letter or Youth First's support of SWBH, please reach out to me at my contact information below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Parri O. Black". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "B".

Parri Black

President/CEO

pblack@youthfirstinc.org or 812-421-8336, ext. 101